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THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 69 Number 3 March 1987



NATURE AND CONSERVATION IN ISRAEL

What's the rest of the world doing to protect the environment?

With our involvement in local conservation issues, we need to answer this question for a broader perspective on the problem, thereby gaining inspiration and support from others.

Our March program, on the 12th, at 7:30, held at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in San Francisco, will provide us with an international focus on conservation. Yoav Sagi, Secretary General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), who, fortuitously enough, is on sabbatical at UC Berkeley, will present a slide show on characteristic plant and animal life, as well as landscape phenomena, in his country. He will also discuss conservation problems in Israel and show how SPNI, the largest conservation organization there, has been instrumental in solving them. For example, SPNI has been responsible for initiating legislation and for organizing direct public action to protect such threatened natural and historical sites as the sources of The Jordan, parts of Mt. Carmel, and the Umm-Tzafa forest.

Of particular interest to birdwatchers: in his talk, Mr. Sagi will mention Eilat, a center for migrating birds of prey. There, because of Israel's strategic location between three continents, such varied species as the steppe eagle, steppe buzzard, and black kite congregate, amidst literally millions of storks, pelicans, and such local desert birds as the Lichtenstein sandgrouse, the Arabian babbler, and the little green bee-eater.

* * *

Our April program, on the 9th at Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, will treat us to another George Peyton excursion, this time to The Amazon and other birding hotspots in Brazil.

—TOM WHITE

SALA BURTON

A clear and well respected voice in Congress, one that was consistently raised in defence of the environment, of peace and basic human rights, has been stilled. It is a loss to all of us in the Bay Area. We hope that her successor will be as clear and consistent in the good fight.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, March 7—San Francisco Bird Blitz. See February *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, March 11—Mini-trip to Mitchell Canyon. We will meet at **9:30 a.m.** Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. At Walnut Creek take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Go approximately 8 miles, turn right onto Clayton Rd. Go about a mile, make a right turn onto Mitchell Canyon Rd. and go to the parking lot at the end of the road. This is a delightful area with easy streamside walking and many songbirds. Bring your lunch. Wear shoes suitable for walking in mud. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, March 14—Beginners' Trip to Tilden Regional Park. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Nature Center parking lot. From I-80 take University Ave. until it ends at Oxford and turn left. Take Oxford to Rose and turn right. Proceed one block and turn left at Spruce. Cross Grizzly Peak and immediately turn left downhill on Canon Dr., at the bottom of the hill.

This field trip will concentrate on identifying birds of the chaparral, woodland and grassland areas of Tilden Park, Berkeley. We will see a variety of resident and breeding species and will listen for their sounds as an aid to identification. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Rain or serious threat of rain cancels trip. Leader: Robin Pulich (848-3594 evenings). (✓)

Sunday, March 15—Tennessee Cove. This will be a two-mile walk to Tennessee Cove, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to look for land and

shorebirds, including White-throated Swifts. From San Francisco, from Hwy. 101 take the Hwy. 1 exit toward the Mill Valley and Stinson Beach exit. In about one-quarter mile turn left onto Tennessee Valley Rd. Meet at the end of the road at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 work). (✓)

Saturday, March 21—Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Refuge. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Audubon Center at the Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. in Tiburon. From Hwy. 101 take the Belvedere-Tiburon exit, go east and turn right at the third traffic light: Greenwood Cove Rd. There should be about 7,000 to 10,000 birds on the water. We may be able to see courting Western Grebes. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. We will look for waterbirds from about 9:30 to 11; following our walk we will have a slide show on waterbirds; after lunch, we will look for land birds from about 1:00 to 2:30; the Lymon House will open for touring after our walk. Leader: Meryl Sundove (388-2524). (✓)

Saturday, March 21—Coyote Hills Regional Park and San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (SFBNWR). Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the visitors' center. From Hwy. 17 exit at Jarvis Ave. and go north on Newark Blvd., or from the Alvarado West exit go to Newark Blvd. and turn south, follow the signs to the park. During the morning we will bird at Coyote Hills. After lunch we will caravan to the SFBNWR to see the exhibits at the visitors' center and look for birds in the adjoining area. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. In case of rain, please contact the leader. Leader: Paul Covell (530-2513). (✓)

Sunday, March 22—Sunol Regional

Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the park entrance. Take I-680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd. (the freeway sign is marked Calaveras Rd., Dumbarton Bridge, Calif. 84), go south (left) and follow the signs to Sunol Park, about five miles. Bring lunch and liquids. Park regulations prohibit alcoholic beverages. We should see Golden Eagles, a variety of winter residents and early spring migrants. This trip is also good for wildflowers. Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, March 28/29—Honey Lake. Call for detailed directions. Trip will be limited to 20 participants. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping is also available. Be sure to bring warm clothing. We should see Sage Grouse, Bald Eagles and other birds of the Eastern Sierra. Leader: Bob Hirt (408-446-4478). (✓)

Sunday, April 5—Beginners' Trip to Five Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Five Brooks parking lot (about three miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We will look for early spring migrants near the pond, then caravan to Audubon Canyon Ranch with stops along Bolinas Lagoon. Bring your lunch and we will picnic at the Ranch (\$1 contribution). After lunch we'll walk up to the overlook to see the nesting herons and egrets. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Gloria Markowitz (892-2910). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

APPRECIATION

One of the omissions of which GGAS is guilty is recognizing the contributions of field trips leaders. We were reminded of this by a letter from Ellis and Mimi Myers of Moraga in which they lauded **David Yee** for "an enjoyable and rewarding trip to Stockton, Lodi and Thornton. Over 46 species were observed, including two life birds for us, Little Gull and Saw-whet Owl. Mr. Yee should be congratulated...on time...a steady pace...(attentive to) preferences of the group...careful...all the drivers knew where to go...he added a touch of class...to make a birding day ideal."

AUDIT REPORT

The auditing firm of Kirby and Mangini has presented its draft audit report covering the period ending May 31, 1986. It was reviewed by the board and accepted at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 26. By the time *The Gull* reaches its readers copies of the final audit report will be available for review at the office, Room 204, at the Shattuck-Cedar Co-op in Berkeley.

LEGAL ADVICE

The Board of Directors is in need of consultation on a legal issue of some concern. If there is a lawyer member who would be willing to listen to a brief description of a problem and provide advice as a contribution to the Society, it would be very helpful. Finance Committee Chairman Woody Kuehn (239-7914) or President Arthur Feinstein (282-5937) could provide details.

OMISSION

The Gull for February omitted crediting the US Fish and Wildlife Service for information in the article on bats.

JANUARY OBSERVATIONS

December 31 through January 27

The **Brown Shrike**, an exceptional rarity from Asia, has wandered to Olema Marsh where it appears to be wintering. It represents a second California record. (The first was on SE Farallon Sept. 20, 1984; four other records exist for North America.) This small shrike has stirred North American birders across the continent, since its identity change—from Northern to Brown—January 16 (KGH, GF, RS, JM, SFB, mob). It was found and identified as a Northern Shrike on the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count. It is possible the bird has been around since November and identified as a Brown Shrike by a Zambian observer, who then notified the American Birding Association. The information was sent to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, relayed to Don Roberson in Monterey, and thence to Joe Morlan. During this period persistent local birders, dissatisfied with the Northern Shrike designation, urged other discerning observers to see the bird, and its true species was determined, we think. There are four races of the Brown Shrike which breed from Northern Siberia south to Mongolia, Manchuria and Japan. Usually they winter in China, India, and Southeast Asia. It is hoped the bird will stay long enough to molt into alternate plumage and reveal all.

Hints of a mild El Nino have surfaced, with reduction in normally heavy rainfall patterns from Indonesia to North Australia, but this climatic condition is not expected to affect California weather conditions. However, winter in the region has been mostly dry to date. The presence of an **Emperor Goose** in Siskiyou Co. and an **Oriental Greenfinch** (wild or escape?) in

Humboldt Co., along with the Brown Shrike, make one wonder about the Asian connection.

Shearwaters through Ducks

A Flesh-footed Shearwater and several Short-tailed and Black-vented Shearwaters favored a pelagic trip at Monterey Bay Dec. 30 (SFB). Eight Short-tailed Shearwaters outnumbered Sooty Shearwaters on a Pillar Pt. Whale Trip Jan. 18 (BGh), as is expected this time of year. Cattle Egrets were widely reported: 29 from Bodega Bay to Watsonville throughout the period (mob). The single Cattle Egret, at 5th and Harrison in San Francisco since Oct. 30, takes the prize for perseverance (BSm). Many Snow, and five Ross' Geese, always a surprise coastally, appeared in Marin, Alameda and Santa Cruz Cos. during the period (mob). One even reached SE Farallon Dec. 11 for a first Island record (all SE Farallon Island reports are courtesy Point Reyes Bird Observatory, which cover two months this time). The Blue-phase Snow Goose at the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz lingered through Jan. (DLSu). The S.F. Zoo female Tufted Duck was reported through Jan. 18 (EP, MW, DQ); a male Tufted Duck visited San Leandro Bay Jan. 11-12 (DLe, JM); another male was discovered in Tiburon Jan. 19 (DAH); and the Mallard Res. male was present through Jan. 3 (JG). Four male Harlequin Ducks in January were singles at: Moss Landing Jan. 17-18 and W. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz Jan. 17 (DLSu); Sea Ranch Jan. 22 (KSR, KR); and Bolinas Lagoon throughout the period (mob). An Oldsquaw was found on Tomales Bay Jan. 11 (RS), two were seen flying past Pajaro River Mouth Jan. 17 (DLSu), and one (believed to be one of the Pajaro birds) was at Moss Landing Harbor Jan. 18-24 (DLSu, RTh). I will

summarize the sightings of Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser, which winter here in good numbers, in the April Observations column, when they depart for their breeding grounds. Please keep me posted on their dates and locations. This information is kept on a computer database file.

Raptors through Shorebirds

An adult Bald Eagle was at Frick Lake near Livermore Jan. 18 (DWO), and an immature was near White House Pool Jan. 24 (EYM, *fide* AG). An immature Northern Goshawk, perhaps a first for Marin Co., was near Rogers Ranch, Pt. Reyes Jan. 14 (RS). Fifteen Lesser Golden-Plover continued to be seen throughout the period in Marin and San Mateo Counties (mob). Five Mountain Plover were near the Alameda County line off Kelso Rd. Jan. 8-17 (BR, HWR). Two flocks of Mountain Plover, one of 25 and the other of 6 birds were in different fields north of Davis Jan. 18 (EG). Another 19 were found near Lone Star and Hahn Rds. in Colusa Co. Jan. 25 (BR). The Rock Sandpiper at Princeton Harbor was last reported Jan. 4 (PhR). Another was seen at Bean Hollow State Beach Jan. 3 (LKy). Large flocks of Red Phalarope, unusual this late in the winter, were in Monterey Bay Jan. 15-16 (SJ).

Gulls through Puffin

The Little Gull at Stockton Sewage Ponds was still present Jan. 10 (MLR). Four first winter Glaucous Gulls have been seen: one off Angel Island Jan. 10 (DAH), one at SE Farallon Jan. 10-19, another at Mt. View Dump Jan. 13 (PhR), and one at Ano Nuevo State Beach Jan. 26 (DLSu). An **adult** Glaucous Gull was found at Moss Landing Harbor Jan. 24 (RTh). An immature Caspian Tern was still hanging about

Foster City Dec. 27 and an adult bird was seen at the Pajaro River Mouth Jan. 5 (DLSu). One Xantus' Murrelet was at SE Farallon Jan. 18 for a second Island record, and a pair of Xantus' Murrelets were found on a Monterey pelagic trip Jan. 24 (SJ). Three Ancient Murrelets were seen from shore at Limantour Beach Jan. 21 (BR), and SE Farallon had an all-time high count of 45 on Jan. 28. Three Tufted Puffin were found on a Pillar Pt. Whale Trip Jan. 18 (BGh).

Landbirds

A White-winged Dove on SE Farallon Nov. 24-25 is an eighth Island record. A Saw-whet Owl was in a rural residential yard northeast of Manteca in San Joaquin Co. Dec. 20-Jan. 25, with two present on one occasion (MLR, GKN). A Vaux's Swift was seen over Packard Ranch near Elkhorn Slough Jan. 1 (PJM). An immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** enjoyed several yards in Nicasio Jan. 4-18 (RS, *fide* DW, mob). A Red-naped Sapsucker continued to be seen on Mt. Diablo Jan. 3 (JM, RAE). A Red-naped in Olema Jan. 26 was found freshly dead (RS). An adult Red-naped/Yellow-bellied type was at Mission Peak Regional Preserve Jan. 21 (IB). Two Pileated Woodpeckers were found at Portola State Park Jan. 3 (DLSu), where they are probably resident in small numbers. Two more Western Flycatchers put in their appearance, both at Watsonville Community Hospital (hereafter WCH). One was seen on Dec. 26 (SG), and two were seen Jan. 1. At least one remained to Jan. 4 (DLSu). A Tropical Kingbird was at the Monterey Bay Academy Jan. 1-2 (SFB). Visiting Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Jan. 25 was a Mountain Chickadee (BR). A Townsend's Solitaire was at Portola State

Park Jan. 1 (DLSu).

Unusual wintering warbler reports for the region are as follows: two Tennessees—WCH Jan. 1-4 (SFB, DLSu), and UC Santa Cruz Arboretum Jan. 25 (DLSu); a Nashville still at WCH Jan. 1 (DLSu); two Yellows—near Elkhorn Slough Jan. 1, and Monterey Bay Academy, Santa Cruz Co., Jan. 2 (PJM); two Hermits—White House Pool Jan. 1 (PGO), and Inverness Ridge Sky Trail Jan. 25 (MP); a **Blackburnian** at Pacific Grove (DR, *fide* SFB), first winter record; the Princeton Prairie Warbler to Jan. 25 (mob). Seven Palm Warblers (four new, three continuing) were seen during the month: from SE Farallon (this individual may be a first winter record), and from Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz Cos. (mob). Five more Black-and-white Warblers enlivened birding during the month from San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz Cos. (mob). There was a Northern Waterthrush at Neary's Lagoon Dec. 26 (TAC, *fide* DLSu). The Northern Waterthrush at WCH remained to Jan. 1 (*fide* SFB), and Kelly Lake near Watsonville had another Jan. 1 (RM, *fide* DLSu). One Wilson's Warbler stayed at Ano Nuevo to Jan. 7 (DLSu).

The Summer Tanager at WCH lingered to Jan. 4 (*fide* SFB, DLSu). Five Sharp-tailed Sparrows and ten Swamp Sparrows enjoyed coastal marshes throughout January (mob). An eastern form of the Fox Sparrow was at a San Rafael residence Jan. 6 (KSW). White-throated Sparrows are having an amazing winter in our area, with twelve new reports for the month (mob). A Rusty Blackbird was near the town of Pescadero Jan. 3-9 (RTh, DWo, DC), close to where two were observed last year. The pair of Great-tailed Grackles was still at the foot of Van Ness Ave.

in San Francisco Jan. 17 (CRC). An Orchard Oriole was at a Fremont residence Jan. 17-24 (FK, RAE). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in Santa Cruz during January, with four at De Laveaga Golf Course Jan. 24 (DLSu).

Observers

Stephen F. Bailey, Ira Bletz, Scott Carey, Ted A. Chadnik, Terry Codrington, Clayton R. Coler, John Comstock, Deborah Cotter, Richard A. Erickson, George Finger, Steve Getty, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Brad Goodhart (BGH), Peter Gottschling (PGO), Edward Greaves, Helen Green, Paul D. Green, Jeff Greenhouse, Marguerite B. Gross, Kevin G. Hintsa, Bob Hirt, David A. Holway, Margaret Jessup, Fran Kelly, Ted Koundakjian, Linda Krypta (LKy), Michael Larkin, Deborah Leo (DLe), Eugene Y. Makishima, Peter J. Metropulos, Randy Morgan, Joseph Morlan, Gary K. Neil, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Eleanor Peterson, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon Report thanks to Peter Pyle), Lina J. Prairie, Dave Quady, Harold W. Reeve, David Rice (DRi), Bob Richmond, Kathy S. Ritter, Krehe Ritter, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Gostron (PhR), Rich Samino (RSa), Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Bill Smith (BSm), Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, David L. Suddjian, Ron Thorn (RTh), Harry White, Mike Wihler, Katherine S. Wilson, David Wimpfheimer, Dennis Wolff (DWo).

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288.

—HELEN A. GREEN

Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

CONSERVATION NOTES

Foot/Bike Path Around the Bay

There is discussion of a proposal to ring the Bay with an encircling path. Appealing as the idea is, it is fraught with dangers to habitat, especially wetlands, and should be approached with caution. The following is a draft of a statement representing the consensus of Bay Area Audubon chapters. Members are alerted to the issue and urged to be informed and express their views. This seems at root to be a developer's way to increased shoreline development.

It is our experience that public access areas, while important, can seriously impact habitat for wildlife in a number of direct and indirect ways: the presence of people passing through or stopping results in wildlife (particularly more shy species), not being able to use the area; dogs which people often walk along paths run after birds and are a problem for shorebirds; litter which is frequently dropped in public places is unsightly and can be detrimental to wildlife; and directly by filling wetlands.

In view of serious loss of wetland habitats throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and the potential for this path to result in further loss or degradation of wetland habitat, we recommend that the following provisions be included in legislation:

- No fill in tidal or seasonal wetlands or in the Bay
- No impact on wetland habitat:
 - identify sensitive habitat areas which the path should avoid.
 - consult with agencies (federal and state) regarding path near wetlands, particularly lands they own.
 - locate new path so that it does not impact wetland habitats not previously disturbed by human use.

— buffer areas of a width of at least 100 feet to provide refuge areas for species during high tides. Buffers should be planted with native vegetation, as a food source and cover.

- Mechanisms for maintenance—trash clean-up, repair of paving, and policing.
- Inclusion of wildlife agency and conservation organization representatives on the proposed committee.
- Inclusion of buffer vegetation and other amenities (trash cans, etc.) in view of the increased usage of paths bordering the Bay.
- The path should not be considered as mitigation for any loss or other impacts on wetlands resulting from other projects.

Your comments and suggestions are solicited. Address them to the GGAS Conservation Committee.

San Francisco Sewer Impact

The San Francisco Clean Water Program plans to significantly increase water treatment facilities on the City's ocean coast. Mandated by the Clean Water Act to treat sewage prior to discharge, the next phase of this seemingly endless project will require expansion of the existing Golden Gate Park facility and/or development of a new facility adjacent to the Zoo. These are the only alternatives being considered, other than transporting sewage across the City for treatment and discharge into the Bay. In any case this necessary facility will have environmental impacts. GGAS will support one of the alternatives unless a more favorable one is brought to our attention. Our comments will focus on diminishing impacts to wildlife, the coastal environment and our parks. If you wish to comment regarding this matter please submit it in writing to the Clean Water Program and

send GGAS a copy. The EIR is scheduled for publication and public comment during March or April. By the time you read this our preliminary position will be submitted to the City and County of San Francisco. However, we welcome members' comments. Copies of our position are available at the GGAS office.

For further information about this project, write Steve Laughlin, San Francisco Clean Water Program, P.O. Box 360 (770 Golden Gate Ave.), San Francisco, CA 94101, or phone 558-2131.

—DAN MURPHY

Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary

Currently under consideration for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) is the Cordell Bank, a seamount 20 miles west of Point Reyes. This area has recently become familiar to many of you as a popular pelagic birding spot. It is a rich ecological region, supporting a vast and complex food web that includes fish and mammals as well.

The underground island of Cordell Bank sits on the very edge of the continental shelf, and has an area of approximately 22 square miles. Nautical charts show that on the west side of the bank there is a steep slope where the seabed drops 10,000 feet in the space of a few miles. On the east, however, there is shallow water with a maximum depth of 360 feet.

The biological community at Cordell Bank, according to a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration report, is "exceptionally vigorous, supporting the entire food chain." The California current sweeps southward over the Bank, carrying away debris and bringing clean, clear, cold, nutrient-rich water to the shallow Bank. Because of this current, and the

unusual depth to which sunlight penetrates, the region supports a thriving community of lower organisms. Rare and uncommon sea fauna have been discovered in the region, as well as many new taxa, genera, and species.

Rockfish, salmon, albacore, shark and many other species of fish are supported by the area, but a decline has been under way since the mid-1970s. There is concern on the part of environmentalists, commercial fishermen, and the California Dept. of Fish and Game, about the overfishing of these waters. A marine sanctuary designation would not prohibit fishing, however.

The rich biological productivity of the waters attracts and serves as an important habitat and feeding ground for seabirds, which often congregate in the hundreds around Cordell Bank.

These same waters which are attractive to seabirds also serve marine mammals. Whales, porpoises, dolphins, sea lions, and seals have all been sighted at the seamount, and the Marine Mammal Center staff has concluded that it is a significant location for feeding and residency for a number of these species.

The stated purposes of a sanctuary are: to enhance resource protection, to conduct research, to enhance public awareness, and to encourage multiple use. There are five such sanctuaries in the United States today, three on the east coast, one in southern California, and one adjacent to Cordell Bank, encompassing Point Reyes/Farallon Islands. The designation has protected the Point Reyes/Farallon Island NMS from substance discharge, alteration of the seabed, sea vessel navigation, overflights; and it has sponsored research activities.

The most obvious danger to the Cordell Bank region is the threat of offshore oil drilling and all the problems it poses. And, although recent plans have not

included this area, the prospect of drilling the area is still alive.

In addition to protection, this special designation as a marine sanctuary would include research and education, which offer the opportunity for new discoveries and knowledge about this unique area.

The next step, after the issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact Report by the Commerce Dept., is public comment. Attendance at the public forum and/or letters will be vital. For further information please contact the Whale Center, (415) 654-6621.

Tilden Park Plan

Tilden Park's Land Use and Development Plan was presented by East Bay Regional Park District's planning department at a Conservation Committee meeting at the Berkeley Co-op on Jan. 22. GGAS had invited members of the Native Plant Society, Friends of Tilden Park, The Regional Parks Assn. and the Sierra Club.

New developments in the progress of the plan are encouraging. First, the rigid time schedule has been abandoned. At Feb. 3 meeting of the EBRPD board the planning department requested additional time with no deadline and received approval from the board for this. Second, such environmental concerns are being addressed as the rehabilitation of Jewel Lake. This had been discussed, but not funded, for over ten years; now there is hope for both decision and funding. In addition, a long-range biotic survey will be written into the Tilden plan, the first such systematic animal study to be implemented in any of the Regional Parks. Bob Stebbins, professor emeritus of UCB, a friend, user and consultant

for Tilden Park for over forty years, is the author. The study calls for informal observation and record keeping by other interested Park staff, users and volunteers. A detailed account will be published in *The Gull* for April.

WHAT MEMBERS CAN DO: Attend one of the presentations of the Plan. Make your opinions known. Call Marion Craig at 845-5036 for information.

Conservation Committee Meetings

Meetings of the Conservation Committee are, of course, open to GGAS members; you are urged to participate. As some meetings are held in the homes of members, it is well to phone the GGAS office or the committee chairman for the location. The San Francisco Section meets on the first Monday and the East Bay Section meets on the second Monday of each month.

Welcome!

MOUNTAIN LIONS NEED PROTECTION



THE CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORT

OAKLAND—DEC. 21, 1986

This year's count was highlighted by various extraneous events, the Port of Oakland brouhaha, eight million gallons of spilled sewage in San Leandro Bay (which did not appear to reduce the number of birds seen), and a visiting ornithologist from China, Liao Wei-Ping, who accompanied Nancy Conzett about Tilden Park and joined us at the count dinner.

Participants were initially barred from censusing the Oakland Airport as a result of the GGAS suit against the Port of Oakland. After the story hit the press and pressure was applied by many phone calls from the public, the Port of Oakland agreed to let us on. Initially, they demanded a fee for entry! They withdrew the demand 36 hours before the count day but, after making the necessary last minute arrangements, David Rice and his team had only two hours of daylight to count the birds on the airport's wetlands.

A break in the rain pattern for the weekend brought out 147 observers in the field and 16 at feeders. There were 91,125 individuals of 174 species counted.

Compilers: Chris Swart
Ruth Dement
Helen Green
Nicola Selph

AUDUBON'S BIRTHDAY BIRDATHON & BLITZ

Save April 25—

Help celebrate Audubon's Birthday this year by joining one of the birdathons taking place on each side of the Bay. The National Audubon Mono Lake Defense Fund will be the recipient of the funds raised. Details will follow in the next *GULL*.

SAN FRANCISCO—DEC. 29, 1986

The 63 field observers were joined by 7 feeder watchers. We counted 95,942 birds of 160 species. This exceeded our previous high count by 27,547 individuals. That number would certainly have been much higher had our boat not broken down at the Golden Gate. A herring run in the Bay seemed to be the primary factor in attracting large numbers of sea ducks and gulls.

Rare species were topped by a female **Tufted Duck** at the zoo. We added 7 species to the count historical total, bringing it to 195.

Feeder participants were at an all time high of 7. They produced our only record for Band-tailed Pigeon, pointing out our continuing need for birders who can contribute an hour or so on count day.

The compilation team wishes to thank our participants and supporters for making this count as successful as those in the past. We look forward to an equally exciting count in 1987.

Compilers: Alan Hopkins
Donna Lion
Dan Murphy

In the table which follows bold face type indicates an unexpected high count or species.

SPECIES	OAKLAND	S.F.
Red-throated Loon	16	30
Pacific Loon	0	22
Common Loon	38	26
Loon, species	175	35
Pied-billed Grebe	161	174
Horned Grebe	101	29
Eared Grebe	19	33
Western Grebe	893	342
Clark's Grebe	44	9
Western (Clark's) type	202	0
<i>Aechmophorus</i> species	0	699
Brown Pelican	4	22
Double-crested Cormorant	898	1412
Brandt's Cormorant	157	175
Pelagic Cormorant	22	20
American Bittern	0	3

SPECIES	OAKLAND	S.F.		
American Bittern	0	3	Virginia Rail	0 10
Great Blue Heron	56	22	Sora	1 8
Great Egret	71	17	American Coot	3101 2162
Snowy Egret	118	30	Black-billed Plover	727 812
Cattle Egret	8	1	Snowy Plover	14 25
Green-backed Heron	3	5	Semipalmated Plover	80 40
Black-crowned Night Heron	90	112	Killdeer	137 699
Ross's Goose	1	0	American Black Oystercatcher	2 8
Brant	1	0	Black-necked Stilt	46 0
Greater White-fronted Goose	0	1	American Avocet	488 295
Canada Goose (large)	898	223	Greater Yellowlegs	17 3
Canada Goose (small)	2	0	yellowlegs, species	1 0
goose species	0	21	Willet	1303 575
Wood Duck	11	2	Wandering Tattler	1 0
Green-winged Teal	60	0	Spotted Sandpiper	14 10
Mallard	1233	958	Whimbrel	23 14
Northern Pintail	504	51	Long-billed Curlew	163 21
Blue-winged Teal	1	0	Marbled Godwit	830 422
Cinnamon Teal	36	2	Ruddy Turnstone	28 20
Northern Shoveler	177	51	Black Turnstone	45 60
Gadwall	32	51	Surfbird	0 2
Eurasian Wigeon	1	1	Red Knot	367 18
American Wigeon	1446	433	Sanderling	912 902
Canvasback	590	466	Western Sandpiper	4550 4140
Redhead	51	0	Least Sandpiper	1137 1027
Ring-necked Duck	286	41	Dunlin	2413 5060
Tufted Duck	0	1	peep, species	7850 0
Greater Scaup	4652	8004	Short-billed Dowitcher	1181 0
Lesser Scaup	3553	987	Long-billed Dowitcher	29 0
scaup, species	5590	2827	dowitcher, species	444 480
Harlequin Duck	0	1	Common Snipe	25 19
Oldsquaw	1	0	Bonaparte's Gull	241 26
Black Scoter	0	19	Mew Gull	737 7494
Surf Scoter	2547	7611	Ring-billed Gull	1236 1161
White-winged Scoter	13	270	California Gull	544 5187
scoter, species	43	750	Herring Gull	23 103
Common Goldeneye	1004	140	Thayer's Gull	3 21
Barrow's Goldeneye	62	7	Western Gull	754 2964
Bufflehead	1269	386	Glaucous-winged Gull	239 1887
Hooded Merganser	2	0	W. x Glaucous-winged Gull	5 64
Common Merganser	3	0	gull, species	511 8358
Red-breasted Merganser	46	16	Forster's Tern	94 149
Ruddy Duck	1992	3571	tern, species	0 1
duck, species	45	0	Common Murre	0 6
Turkey Vulture	83	6	Marbled Murrelet	0 6
Black-shouldered Kite	18	0	Rock Dove	821 2289
Northern Harrier	13	6	Band-tailed Pigeon	273 3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19	4	Mourning Dove	1075 550
Cooper's Hawk	7	9	Western Screech Owl	3 2
Accipiter, species	5	2	Great Horned Owl	34 7
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	10	Burrowing Owl	5 0
Red-tailed Hawk	107	72	Northern Saw-whet Owl	5 0
Golden Eagle	2	0	White-throated Swift	4 0
American Kestrel	61	53	Anna's Hummingbird	609 476
Merlin	1	1	Selasphorus, species	2 0
Peregrine Falcon	2	2	Belted Kingfisher	18 12
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	0	Acorn Woodpecker	62 2
California Quail	238	139	Red-breasted Sapsucker	22 8
Clapper Rail	4	0	Nuttall's Woodpecker	36 0
			Downy Woodpecker	27 28
			Hairy Woodpecker	9 1

SPECIES	OAKLAND	S.F.
Northern (Yel-shafted) Flicker	2	0
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	428	137
Western Flycatcher	1	0
Black Phoebe	84	82
Say's Phoebe	15	10
Horned Lark	3	5
Stellar's Jay	408	3
Scrub Jay	873	101
American Crow	30	56
Common Raven	5	32
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	1022	264
Plain Titmouse	101	0
Bushtit	1651	416
Red-breasted Nuthatch	202	70
White-breasted Nuthatch	19	0
Pygmy Nuthatch	4	324
Brown Creeper	66	38
Rock Wren	5	3
Bewick's Wren	142	30
House Wren	1	0
Winter Wren	15	27
Marsh Wren	3	24
Golden-crowned Kinglet	168	117
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	591	235
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	0
Western Bluebird	102	0
Hermit Thrush	124	69
American Robin	3271	771
Varied Thrush	185	24
Wrentit	413	82
Northern Mockingbird	68	11
California Thrasher	43	2
Water Pipit	264	18
Cedar Waxwing	837	55
Loggerhead Shrike	8	6
European Starling	2908	2103
Hutton's Vireo	63	22
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	7
Nashville Warbler	1	0
Yellow Warbler	0	2
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	39	66
Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	355	273
Yellow-rumped Warbler (form?)	1092	1130
Townsend's Warbler	52	89
Hermit Warbler	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	5	28
Wilson's Warbler	0	2
Western Tanager	0	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	312	15
Brown Towhee	713	185
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	37	0
Lark Sparrow	11	0
Savannah Sparrow	93	52
Fox Sparrow	243	222
Song Sparrow	454	224
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	6
White-throated Sparrow	1	3
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1416	755
White-crowned Sparrow	1161	1721

sparrow, species	45	1
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	0	3
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	2285	626
Dark-eyed Junco (form?)	0	215
Red-winged Blackbird	633	275
Tricolored Blackbird	12	1503
Western Meadowlark	455	352
Brewer's Blackbird	1358	2594
Great-tailed Grackle	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	9	179
blackbird, species	267	50
Purple Finch	39	29
House Finch	1640	1355
Pine Siskin	188	166
Lesser Goldfinch	232	44
American Goldfinch	410	79
House Sparrow	305	501

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

"Do I have your permission to shoot the blankety-blank starlings in my yard?" asked a neighbor. The influx of starlings over the past few years has driven out native birds such as the Acorn Woodpecker and Western Bluebird, who nest in tree hollows. It goes against my nature to kill most any living thing (a mosquito or fly, yes; most spiders, no). I'm not crazy about starlings either, but what are the legalities?

All the native species of North American birds are protected in some ways by federal and state laws. Among the introduced species only three are not protected: the Common Starling (!), Common Pigeon and House Sparrow. This means that for *most* species it is illegal for anyone to kill, harm, harass, capture, possess, buy, sell, barter or transport birds—dead or alive—or even parts of them (e.g. feathers) or their nests or eggs, without having special permits, or in case of emergency (e.g. finding an injured bird).

Most of us can figure out why these laws exist. In the past, egg-collecting, unregulated hunting and the use of plumes and feathers in fashion pushed some species to extinction. Others barely survived.

Some species may be killed, captured

or possessed after obtaining permits. Best known are game birds, the most obvious being ducks, geese, grouse and a number of other specific species. These birds may be hunted during a restricted season but only in prescribed areas, and in carefully regulated numbers. The method used is also spelled out. It is forbidden to use live decoys, poisons, explosives, bait or to chase birds in motor vehicles. It's a sad commentary on society that all these methods have to be outlined in such detail!

There are other instances for which you can obtain permits, all subject to strict regulations. A few of these are:

- Falconers may capture and keep certain species of native, non-endangered raptors—only after passing strict written exams. Also the quarry which these birds pursue is very limited—to game species during prescribed seasons.

- Banding and marking birds for scientific purposes is allowed with permits.

- Collecting live or dead specimens, their nests or eggs for scientific purposes is allowed with permits.

- Keeping dead, sick or injured birds requires special permission.

- Taxidermists need not have a permit to mount *legally* killed game birds, but they must be responsible for ensuring that the trophy birds are legally obtained. Naturally, endangered species cannot be mounted without state and federal permits.

- Killing or capturing "pest" species (such as blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, crows and magpies, which can threaten crops, trees, human health or simply create a nuisance) is also federally regulated. This does not apply to the starlings, pigeons and House Sparrows previously mentioned.

As in most laws there are exceptions. You may not legally control or dispose of pest species but you *may* scare or herd them. However, NO ONE may bother eagles and other threatened species. They are fully-protected. Another exception includes museums, scientific or educational institutions which may buy or accept legally-obtained birds, parts thereof, and the nests and eggs of birds without a permit. In addition, feathers of legally-obtained birds may be put to commercial uses in pillows and so on. These are a few of the exceptions.

Fortunately, the U.S. has international treaties with Canada, Mexico, Japan and the USSR which proclaim protection for species which migrate between our countries. If only we had such treaties with Central and South America where a large number of North American birds migrate! Moreover, it's very difficult to enforce our existing treaties among people who have traditionally hunted edible birds for centuries.

Despite the importance of knowing of the laws enacted to protect our wildlife, a majority of our population is not so educated. An indignant citizen may *not* just begin taking potshots at birds he deems a nuisance. Starlings may be an exception, but blasting away is not the answer. "Bird problems" are usually local and temporary in nature and although likely to recur, stopgap solutions are preferable and will usually suffice. I hope scare tactics can be used as an alternative to more drastic measures in most cases.

—MEG PAULETICH

ALAMEDA COUNTY BIRDS OF PREY

The Predatory Bird Research Group of UC Santa Cruz is sponsoring a study of birds of prey breeding, wintering, and

migrating through the hilly area of southern Alameda County. The study includes most of the area east of Mission Peak to Cedar Mountain ridge and areas south of Rt. 84 to the County line. The area offers many habitats for nesting raptors. Joseph DeDonato, the scientist in charge of the study, would appreciate information from anyone discovering new or historic nest sites in the area. He guarantees confidentiality. Address him at P.O. Box 82, Sunol, CA 94586 or by phone (415) 862-2244.

NORTHERN HARRIERS

GGAS member Mark Brennan is trying to locate Northern Harrier nests in the Bay Area and especially in Marin County. He is studying reproductive behavior. If you know where any nesting sites are, either currently active or from prior seasons, or if you see any harrier activity during your outings in March, he would greatly appreciate hearing from you. He can be reached by phone at (415) 221-0659.

BOOK NOTICES

Artemisia Press of Lee Vining, California has reissued Grinnell and Miller's *The Distribution of the Birds of California*. Available in paper (\$18) or hardbound (\$25) with royalties going to the Cooper Ornithological Society, this publication, first issued in 1944, is a valuable reference. The address of the Press is Box 119, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Shipping is included, but California residents please add sales tax.

Also from Artemisia is *The Distributional Checklist of North American Birds*. It is by David DeSante and Peter Pyle. Beautifully printed and bound, with 456 pages, 51 full page drawings, \$30.

From Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology comes a *Birder's Life List and Diary*, (\$6.95). Spiral-bound, 6''x9'', with 192 pages, it is updated to the 6th

edition of the AOU checklist. It is a revision of the book originally published by Roy and Betty Dietert. It provides space for recording sighting dates, location and remarks for 690 species found regularly in North America, north of Mexico, 74 Hawaiian species, a listing of 156 accidental species, and space for a numbered life list. An index provides space for keeping other lists. Available from Crow's Nest Bookshop, 159 Sapsucker Wood Road, Ithaca, NY 24850.

FREMONT BIRDING FIELD TRIPS CLASS

The Fremont Adult School and instructor Alice Hoch will offer two series of six-session birding classes covering field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class will visit a different birding spot. The class will meet Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 with registration at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of the series in Room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Classes are limited to fifteen members.

Tuesday, March 3 and Wednesday, March 4 are the first classes. Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that morning. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

Mines Road Field Trip

On Saturday, April 11, Alice Hoch will lead a field trip along Mines Road at Livermore. Expected are Phainopepla, Lewis Woodpecker, California Thrasher, Golden Eagle and much more; last year there was a Roadrunner.

The trip requires preregistration, and a fee of \$14.50. Send your check with a stamped, addressed envelope, to the Adult School.

The trip will be leaving from the flagpole at the school at 9 a.m. Students should bring field guides, binoculars, scopes, snacks, lunch, and beverages. For information phone 791-5841.

SEABIRD SEMINAR AND BOAT TRIP

On Saturday, March 28 there will be a full day of informal talks by a variety of experts speaking on the identification, status and biology of Pacific Coast seabirds. The emphasis will be on practical birding—and fun! Come find out more about these amazing animals from some of the best and most knowledgeable speakers on the subject. **SPECIAL NOTE:** all profits from this event will go toward production costs of the new free newsletter being sent to those contributing observations to *American Birds* magazine for northern California. Cost: \$12.50 per person, lunch not included. Location: Marin Civic Center. Send check or money order payable to Kurt Campbell, P.O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. For further information call (707) 664-0104.

The following day, Sunday, March 29, there will be an all-day boat trip to the Cordell Bank, offshore from Point Reyes. The boat will dock at Bodega Bay. Cordell Bank is about to be named as a new National Marine Sanctuary and is an excellent place to find seabirds and marine mammals. Cost: \$45 per person; checks and information as above.

MONO LAKE QUILT LIVES!

The Mono Lake Quilt will be displayed in a show entitled, "Political Quilts: A Living Tradition," at the Euphrat Gallery, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino from March 3 to April 19. The quilt was sponsored by GGAS and stitched by local members and quilters. This will be its first showing since its raffle November 1981. At that time it raised about \$6700 for Mono Lake legal suits.

SYMPOSIUM: SELENIUM IV

Saturday, March 21, 1987 the Dept. of Conservation and Resource Studies, UC Berkeley, and the Bay Institute of San Francisco are presenting a fourth program in a series begun in 1983 following the discoveries of the deformities and mortality in fish and waterfowl at Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge in the San Joaquin Valley.

Selenium IV will give progress reports on efforts to discover the extent of the selenium problem in California and in the West. The Dept. of the Interior's survey will be presented. Pros and cons of the Bureau of Reclamation's "wet-flex" clean-up program will be argued. Recent information about selenium and fish and wildlife from SF Bay, the Tulare Basin, the Kesterson area, and elsewhere in California will be given. The behavior of selenium in aquatic ecosystems as well as possible implications for human health will be discussed, and matters of public policy will be addressed.

Information and registration (\$10 or \$15 including a box lunch) are available from Don Dalhsten, Biological Control, UC Berkeley, CA 94720.

TWO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Of interest to GGAS members travelling abroad are two conferences previously noted in *The GULL*:

The Third World Conference on Birds of Prey will be held in Eilat, Israel March 22 to 27.

An International Seminar on Nature Conservation Education in Israel will take place in Tel Aviv, Israel from March 30 to April 6.

If interested, telephone Yoav Sagi at 526-6012. He is our speaker on March 12 in San Francisco.

THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION

August 24-28, 1987

It is not too early—and the distance this year is not too great—to begin making plans for summer that include the National Audubon Convention.

Auduboners from around the nation will converge on the campus of Western Washington University at Bellingham, Washington this August. The program will include speakers, workshops, entertainment and a variety of field trips to the scenic parts of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest.

Registration forms and information will be sent soon to members. For more information, write the Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 481-5332 or Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920, (415) 388-2524.

“AUDUBON OF THE WEST

The graceful bird paintings of Andrew Jackson Grayson, a 19th-century pioneer, artist and naturalist, will be given their first public showing at The Oakland Museum April 25-June 14.

The exhibition of 156 watercolors and Grayson's field notes, journals and sketches, will also include bird specimens he collected for the Smithsonian Institution. This premier unveiling of the lifework of “Audubon of the West” follows by only a few months the publication by Arion Press of *Birds of the Pacific Slope*, a full-scale portfolio of Grayson's bird portraits with an accompanying volume of his field notes and a biography by Lois Chambers Stone. The two events signify long overdue recognition for Grayson, the pre-eminent ornithologist and bird painter of the West, who died in 1896 at the age of 51 without ever seeing his work published.

“Andrew Jackson Grayson: Audubon of the West” is organized by The Oakland Museum's History and Natural Sciences depts. led by chief curators L. Thomas Frye and Donald Linsdale, with the collaboration of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, where the Grayson archives are housed; the Smithsonian Institution, and Arion Press.

Grayson, his wife Frances and their young son arrived in California in 1846, journeying overland to this then-northernmost province of Mexico. What Grayson saw and recorded in his field notes, diary and sketchbooks during travels in California was a region of still-pastoral ranches on the one hand and untamed wilderness on the other—a region not yet witness to the hordes of gold seekers who would arrive two years later and wreak havoc upon the landscape. Grayson was both witness to and participant in this transformation. As a miner, merchant, freight operator, real estate investor and later, scientist and artist, Grayson played a sometimes bigger-than-life role in California's evolution.

His powers of observation, already sharpened by the dramatic contrasts of the land itself, came to focus on the birds of the Pacific Slope. Inspired by study of John James Audubon's recently-published *Double Elephant Folio*, and encouragement, via correspondence, with Smithsonian Assistant Secretary Spencer Fullerton Baird, Grayson became both illustrator and scientist. Many of his paintings include carefully-recorded backdrops of the landscape. Grayson did these himself (unlike Audubon, who employed assistants), but his wife Frances copied his scrawled field notes in her fine hand.

“It is fitting that Grayson's pioneering work spanning art, history and

natural sciences, be reunited and unveiled in the Museum of California, which has departments in all three disciplines," Frye said.

Admission to the exhibition is \$2; \$1 for senior citizens and students. Children 11 and under and Oakland Museum Association members are admitted free. Telephone 273-3401.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach
(415) 383-1644
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature
Education Under Joint Sponsorship of
Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and
Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chair

This month marks the opening of another nesting season at the Bolinas Preserve. The ranch welcomes visitors on weekends and holidays from 10 to 4 until mid-July. Come and bring family and friends to enjoy the scenic beauty of west Marin, and the spectacular views of the herony and its breeding pairs of Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. There is no other place in the world like it. Bring a picnic for the tummy and spend a day at the ranch for your soul.

This month the Bolinas Preserve graduates 3 new teachers for its fall and spring educational programs for elementary school children in the Bay Area. This brings to 103 the number of active docents for the upcoming season.

The ACR board at its December meeting voted a resolution of special thanks to the Sequoia Audubon Society for its recent generous contribution to the Ranch.

Anne Monk, educator/naturalist at the Bolinas Preserve, has accepted the invitation of the Bolinas School to be

its visiting science advisor. In taking on this volunteer position Anne augments ACR's community outreach program.

John Peterson, educator/naturalist at the Bouverie Preserve, reports in its publication, *In a Nutshell*, signs of a Mountain Lion (Cougar, Puma) at that preserve in January. He came across its scat plus huge paw scratches adjacent to the scat. The preserve is home to many animals including Gray Fox, Bobcat, Raccoon, Mule Deer, Striped Skunk and Long-tailed Weasel.

John also offered a bit a trivia about turkey vultures. He had assumed this bird's habit of sunning itself with wings outstretched was a way of "recharging it solar cells." Recently he heard another explanation which he passes along.

"In birds that soar extensively the primary flight feathers will begin to curve upward after a time. However, a few minutes of direct sun exposure while perched will dry and straighten these feathers for proper aerodynamics." You can casually drop this into your next conversation with one of those know-it-all birders.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 11-12 A weekend with the wildflowers at the Bolinas Preserve. Ray Peterson will introduce you to flower forms and evolution and explain the mysteries of the floral field guide. You can even earn extension credit for this one.

APRIL 16-18 (Easter Week) Baskets, Bunnies 'n Hot Cross Buns is a family week end at Bolinas to weave baskets, color eggs and make bread climaxed by a GIANT EGG HUNT Saturday noon. Don't miss it!

To reserve a spot call (415) 383-1644.

THE COOPER SOCIETY

The speaker at the next meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be Jeff Groth of UC Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. His subject will be Problems with Crossbills.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, March 2 at 8 p.m. preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

We hope our Spring Seed Sale will not be too late for all of you who tirelessly feed our Bay Area birds winter and summer. In our efforts to adjust our seed sale dates to accommodate as many as possible we are trying Saturday, April 11 for our Spring offering. The same seed mixtures are again available—and at the same reasonable prices. As in the past our seed sale proceeds go directly into our chapter's general fund to help carry on work in conservation and education projects currently underway. Members of the Conservation Committee do a large share of the volunteer work for the sale and they would welcome help from all

interested members! Please call the office, 843-2222, if you have April 11 available.

THAT AUTO SHADE

With some in hand, the auto shade is much more striking in color than our black and white reproduction (page 26) would let you know. The Committee to Complete the Refuge is to be congratulated for having come up with this vehicle for an important message. You can see it at the GGAS office where it is now available at \$6.

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

Seed orders will be available for pick up at a distribution point in San Francisco and one in Berkeley on April 11. Please send your order form and prepayment to reach GGAS on or before April 4. Confirmation of your order and location of the pick-up point will be sent to you by April 7.

Send your order form, with sales tax computed please, your check payable to GGAS, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Bird Seed, GGAS, Room 204, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Here is your chance to order your supply of seed for the season.
Persons ordering seed will be notified by mail of the pick-up point address.

ORDER AND PRE-PAY BY APRIL 4
PICK UP ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

Please indicate the location at which you prefer to pick up your order:

() San Francisco () Berkeley

ITEM	WEIGHT	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED Premium mix composed of white and red millet and sudan grass	20 lbs. 50 lbs.		8.75 18.50	
GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds composed of white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed.	20 lbs. 50 lbs.		6.40 12.30	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED High in oil content and nutritive value, but smaller than the striped variety.	10 lbs. 25 lbs.		8.25 20.50	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED) This minute seed is rich in nourishing oil and will attract goldfinches, but not larger birds or squirrels, nor will it sprout in your yard.	5 lbs.		8.50	
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TOTAL				

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THE GULL

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately: \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.